

Kennedy Hits Move to Shift Cuba Blame

By the Associated Press

President Kennedy has again made it clear that he takes full responsibility for whatever part the United States played in the ill-starred Cuban invasion.

The White House issued a statement last night which said:

"President Kennedy has stated from the beginning that as President he bears sole responsibility for the events of the past few days. He has stated it on all occasions and he restates it now so that it will be understood by all.

"The President is strongly opposed to anyone within or without the administration attempting to shift the responsibility."

No Elaboration

There was no elaboration to the White House statement but it apparently was prompted by sharp Republican reaction to a remark by Secretary of the Interior Udall tying in former President Eisenhower with early planning of last week's rebel landings in Cuba.

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York and former President Harry Truman were to be filled in today on Mr. Kennedy's Cuban policy.

Mr. Kennedy invited the Republican Governor to the White House for a mid-afternoon briefing on the invasion and the problems of combatting pro-Communist Fidel Castro's Cuban regime.

And he assigned Vice President Johnson to fly to Missouri for a similar talk with Mr. Truman.

Undecided on Future

While the effect of these cross-party discussions may be bipartisan support for any future moves by Mr. Kennedy against the Castro regime, informants said this was not the President's purpose.

These sources said Mr. Kennedy had neither asked nor received commitments of support on any future Cuban action, and that Mr. Kennedy hasn't decided what specific steps he will take.

The briefings were described as an exchange of views on what has happened.

With his statement last night reaffirming his responsibility, Mr. Kennedy sought to stamp out any party-line row over the Cuban invasion and its failure.

The statement came after Senate Republican Leader Dirksen protested a remark by Mr. Udall that the invasion had been conceived during the Eisenhower administration.

CPYRGHT